

From: Dan Jerry
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 4:52pm
Subject: Recently, a friend of mine asked what I thought of the Microsoft case.

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Me: "Do you think the maffia is profitable?"

Him: "Sure".

Me: "If you could invest in stock in the maffia, that would pay dividends, might you do it?"

Him: "Sure!!"

Me: "Suppose you did that; you put most of your investment cash into maffia stock; and it paid handsomely."

Him: "Yeah!"

Me: "The maffia is reputed to give a lot of money to churches, little old widows, and help neighborhood families in need. That's a good thing, right?"

Him: "Right".

Me: "Do you think the maffia, -over all, is a good thing for society?"

Him: "Well, no..."

Me: "Well, considering you invested a lot of money in the maffia stock, where now do your loyalties lie? Do you think the Justice Department should leave the maffia alone, because they give a lot of money to churches, etc., and pay you a healthy dividend? Or should the Justice Department do what is necessary to prevent the maffia from doing harm?"

In case you don't understand my alegory:

Sure, Microsoft gives away millions to schools; -for a fantastic tax deduction no doubt. Microsoft, it has finally been officially determined, also stifles competition, strong-arms vendors, and generally, -acts like the maffia! Break them up!

Dan Jerry

Actively involved with the "micro computer" since 1978, and an avid industry historian and intentional observer.

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